

THE OCALA EVENING STAR

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The Electric Light Question.

EDITOR STAR.—Tomorrow is the day to vote upon an important question, "shall the city purchase an electric lighting plant at a cost of \$16,000?" Those who vote upon this question should carefully study both sides of the matter. We have been informed that several cities in the United States own and operate their electric lighting plants at a very small cost to the city. There are numbers of other cities who have owned electric lighting plants, but have been forced to dispose of them and light the city by contract, because it cost them more than they could have it done by contract. Admitting that a city of 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants can operate such plants and furnish its own lights at a very small cost, can it be urged that a small town of barely 4,000 inhabitants can do the same? What has the present lighting plant in this city done towards being successful? It has been in the hands of a receiver, because it could not make expenses even when it was furnishing the lights for the city of Ocala at what is charged to be excessive prices. This company has been operated by a private corporation, by competent persons, whose chief end was to make the plant pay. Is it paying now? Judging from the smaller amount of patronage it has now, compared with what it had when times were good, we think not. Can the municipality of Ocala take a similar plant and operate it at a profit? Can the person who is to be placed in charge of the plant, presumably on account of political preference, operate it with as much skill and economy as it would be operated by a private person or corporation? If we judge the future by the past, the city of Ocala would pay more for its electric lights, by operating it itself, than it has paid in the past and is paying now, because the city would have to stand the loss in operating the plant, which the private corporation has heretofore sustained. Do not let our patriotism, or what other "ism" you choose to call it, get the better of our judgment. How do you know that the city can purchase and equip such a plant as will meet the demands of the city for the sum of \$16,000? The present plant has cost a great deal larger amount, and it does not meet the requirements of our city. Mr. Editor, it is a very easy matter to take a pencil and paper and figure up large profits in a business, but when you have had the experience in that business you will soon learn that figures will lie, some times, and we predict that this is one of those times. Under the present form of government of the city of Ocala, the officers who govern the affairs of the city change once a year. Each incoming administration has its pets to place in office or has some friend upon which it wishes to confer a job. What has been the history of such? New engineer comes in; old one, who has become accustomed to the work and who has become acquainted with machinery, goes out. The superintendent, who has worked hard to make the plant pay and has just become familiar with the plant and its patrons, gives way to the new one, who has worked hard in "ward politics" for the election of the new administration, and now gets his reward. We may say the same thing of the other skilled laborers and unskilled laborers connected with such a plant; once a year the entire force is changed. We have no Civil Service regula-

tions in the city of Ocala. Now what does all of this mean? It means this that the city of Ocala will not, if it can, ever operate an electric lighting plant with as much economy and give as much satisfaction to the city as if operated by a private person or corporation.

A PROPERTY OWNER.

A Good Order.

A. C. Hamrick of Jacksonville, state manager of the Federal Union of America, is in the city organizing a lodge. He is meeting with good success, having about 25 names of leading citizens on his list at this time, and when he organizes a lodge, which will be either Friday or Monday next, there will probably be forty or fifty charter members. Mr. Hamrick has just organized a lodge at Gainesville with 63 charter members of representative citizens. The order is three years old, has a membership of 12,000, the assessments and dues are quite low and the benefits liberal.

A Fire Saturday.

About 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon a fire alarm was turned in from Geo. Giles grocery store, on the corner of Magnolia street and Fort King avenue, but when the fire department arrived the employees had extinguished the flames. It was another case of some one throwing a lighted match into a big pile of lint cotton and the effect was most rapid and startling; the quick shooting blaze filled the building with smoke, which poured out at every aperture long after the fire was out. The excitement soon gathered a crowd of several hundred people. This was Giles' second fire for the week. The damage was very slight.

Wilkes Not Insane.

The Times-Union and Citizen of Jacksonville, says R. W. Wilkes, whom everybody in Ocala remembers as the slayer of Mrs. Rowena Caroway, in Jacksonville over a year ago, and who was tried for murder but was pronounced insane, and sent to the asylum at Chattahoochee, is not insane and that he will be tried again.

His mother, who lives in South Carolina, has been trying to secure bond for \$1,000, on which he was to be released, but so far failed. It appears before his trial that Wilkes acted the insane dodge, now he is trying equally hard to prove he is not insane, in order to get out of the asylum; at least this is the word that comes from Chattahoochee.

Cheap Rates to Lake City.

On account of the Tobacco Fair Association, Oct. 27-28, above occasion, the Plant System will on October 26 and 27 sell tickets to Lake City and return at one fare for the round trip; tickets limited until October 29th. For schedule or any further information address all Plant System agents, or W. V. Lifsey, division passenger agent, Tampa, Fla., or H. G. Haycraft, traveling passenger agent, Ocala.

County Books to Be Examined.

W. V. Frost, who has been appointed by Governor Bloxham to examine the books and accounts of the different county officials of the state, by request of Marion county's board of commissioners, arrived in town today and will proceed to go through the books of our various county officers and no doubt will find them correct.

Beautiful Service.

A Star reporter attended services at the Baptist church last night and witnessed the beautiful service by the young people of the B. Y. P. U. given instead of the regular services. The exercises were called "Brazilian Services," the object being to awaken an interest in sending the gospel to that fair, populous but idolatrous land, and the success from a financial standpoint was very good and a liberal contribution followed. Mr. Rodger leading the list with his week's salary.

The program was rendered as heretofore advertised. It was a carefully selected one and in each instance was well handled. Miss Nellie Stevens read a meritorious paper, "Brazil, the Beautiful," in which she did full justice to that country's inexhaustible resources of the beautiful and useful.

W. T. Gary followed with a comprehensive account of the discovery and early history of the country.

Brazil as an independent country was ably discussed by Miss Gillie Smoak, followed by an eloquent talk from the pastor, Rev. J. L. Rodger, on the "Baptists in Brazil" in which he pictured the vast multitude of 13,000,000 inhabitants, among whom there are such possibilities of good for a few zealous missionaries.

At the close of the program the rites of baptism were administered.

The choir composed of Mrs. J. W. Sylvester, Miss Gillie Smoak, Messrs. G. A. Nash and Will Dale, sang several most lovely hymns and anthems. These four voices blend perfectly and the music was very beautiful.

The Levers in America.

W. H. Lever, president of Lever Bros., Ltd., sailed from Liverpool by steamship Majestic on October 13th, for the United States with a view of building a soap works here. Lever Bros., Ltd., have the largest soap works in the world at Port Sunlight, opposite Liverpool, England. This factory, including the model village for the workmen which is connected with it, covers an area of 114 acres, and has a capacity of 2,400 tons of soap per week. The capital of the company is ten million dollars, fully paid in, and it employs over 2,500 persons. There is no reason why the projected works in this country should not become in time as large as the English factory. The reason for the decision to build here is in the new tariff law, which has doubled the duty on laundry soaps.

The principal product of the company is Sunlight Soap, a laundry soap which formerly paid 25 cents per case duty. The Dingley bill taxes it 70 cents per case, which is prohibitive on a staple article like soap.

From this it appears some little good may after all come out of the Dingley bill.

An Elegant Sermon.

Rev. J. C. Sale, presiding elder of the Gainesville District, preached at the Methodist church yesterday morning and evening. In the forenoon his sermon was both forcible and eloquent on the life of grand old Abraham. Mr. Sale read his lesson, closed the book, stepped in front of his pulpit and for half an hour held the unwavering attention of his congregation.

Hood's Pills are the favorite family cathartic and liver medicine. Price 25c.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

Candler.

The Candler Academy opened on Monday, the 4th, with a small but bright and energetic set of students. These will use all their energies to make the little seed fall upon good ground, spring up, and bring forth much fruit.

The classical course to be studied here is much the same as that of any other college, and there are also normal and business courses which some are taking.

A German class was organized on Monday last, delayed thus long on account of not having the proper books which arrived on Saturday.

The remarkable efficiency of Dr. Farris in explaining away difficulties, enabled the class of five, all of whom save one had never used a German word before, and that one very little, to read at the first lesson a page of solid German and understand every word of it, without one word of English being spoken during its recitation. In three months the students expect to be able to carry on an ordinary conversation entirely in German.

The class in geometry is progressing with equal success and advanced college algebra is studied with much interest.

Three new students are expected in a short while and we earnestly hope that many more will see the advantage of this rare opportunity and add their number to the list.

The citizens of Candler mean to lend their aid in every way within their power to send the academy forward with a cheer.

Doctors Hood and Frederick of Ocala called on Dr. Croaker yesterday, who is very sick.

Mrs. L. T. Teeters and daughter of Univeter, Ga., is visiting his sister, Mrs. Mary Laycock.

W. W. Acheson has moved his family from Belleview to Candler. Prof. Henry Rickards rides a new wheel.

Our public school opened with a full attendance. Mr. Moore, as teacher, will wield the rod for the next five months.

J. H. Fox, one of Candler's prosperous merchants, and family are now pleasantly settled in the Clute dwelling on Central avenue.

The Most Reliable

The most reliable seeds to be found in this country are D. M. Ferry & Co's., as thousands will testify who have planted them for years. We get em every week in new plain papers. Headquarters, the Racket.

The local physicians say the town is distressingly healthy just now, very little sickness in its borders, and scarcely any serious cases.

Powell's fine candies, fine assortment, just in at Whaley's.

Big line of boys' and men's clothing at Gerig & Co's.

We don't want to "hang you," but would like to place one of our elegant ties around your neck. Davidson & VanEchop.

STYLISH HEADGEAR

This we have

in the



. New Fall Shapes .

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STIFF and ALPINES

Popular Shades..

Attractive Prices..

Davidson & VanEchop,

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THE BEST TABLE FARE
THE PRICES VERY LOW

— Services and accommodations THE BEST.
My aim is to secure the largest patronage. —

N. L. Williams,

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Northeast Corner Public Square, Ocala, Fla

:- A Big Raise in Price :-

Watches have advanced in price from

15 to 25 PER CENT

We now offer you

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In those bought before the raise was made.

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We Have..

One of the best assortments of Dress Goods,
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